

## **DURHAM CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau

Wednesday, July 16, 2014, 3:15pm.

### **Members Present:**

☐ Zoila Airall  
☐ Daniel Ellison  
☒ Sherry DeVries  
☐ Pamela Green  
☐ Mark Hough  
☐ Medina Johnson  
☒ Frank Konhaus  
☒ Renee Leverty  
☒ Ashley Mattheis  
☒ Cynthia Mebane-Watts  
☐ Chris Ogden  
☐ Lou Rollins

### **OEWD Staff Present:**

☐ Grace Dzidzienyo  
☒ Peter Coyle

**Also present:** Angela Lee, Meera Chakravarthy

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Chair Renee Leverty called the meeting to order at 3:22pm.

Sherry DeVries moved to approve the April 16, 2014 Board meeting minutes. Cynthia Mebane-Watts seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Renee Leverty moved to approve the minutes of the June 8 meeting of the Board. Cynthia Mebane-Watts seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Leverty introduced Meera Chakravarthy, a UNC student who is researching the Cultural Master Plan for an academic project next spring.

Mebane-Watts reported on Project Homeless Connect, an annual event since 2007. She described the program and the services it offers to the homeless. She encouraged Board members to get involved with the 2014 event, which will be held on October 10 at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

Angela Lee, Executive Director of the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/Haiti heritage center provided an update on activities at the Haiti Heritage center. She noted that it has been 18 months since she became the executive director of the organization and discussed the rebranding activities in which the center has been involved. She reported that this summer the center will host a performing arts youth camp, including a production of The Wiz on July 22, a science adventures camp and a martial arts camp. The Center will be sponsoring the Bull Durham Blues Festival the first weekend in September, with a Friday night show at the center and a Saturday show at the Durham Athletic park. She reported that they are looking to add banners to the exterior of the Center and are seeking funding for that project. Lee also discussed the marketing campaign for the Blues festival.

Ashley Matthias reported on a proposal she discussed with Carver Weaver of Durham Tech, requesting Cultural Advisory Board sponsorship funding for Family Fest Day at the American Tobacco Campus. Durham tech will be organizing a children's mural project, based on the Civil Rights Mural Project, and is seeking \$2,500 in sponsorship funds. The Board discussed the project at length and while Board members supported the idea of the project it was agreed that both the purpose of Cultural Master Plan funds and the small amount not yet committed to project goals are not a good fit with providing sponsorship for an annual event. Peter Coyle and Mattheis will follow up with Ms. Weaver to see if we can assist in identifying funding from the City or other agencies.

Sherry DeVries that on July 18 Durham Arts Council will host an arts fair at the American Tobacco campus for the 400 employees of FHI 360. This may become a prototype for future welcome events for new corporations moving into Durham. The Arts Council also will be holding a Harlem Renaissance summer camp for children. On July 22, 1:00 – 5:00 pm the three finalists for the visioning consulting contract for the SmART Grant project will be in town for interviews in the PSI Theater in the Arts Council Building. Board members are welcome to attend and observe and are welcome to attend a reception for the finalists the evening of July 21 at the Arts Council at 5:30 pm. She reported that the EverWonder training session sponsored by the Arts Council went very well. Levery praised Margaret DeMott for her presentation at that training session.

Peter Coyle reported that the Public Art Committee is moving forward on the Liberty Arts donation of a sculpture from the Bull City Sculpture Show. He is working with Liberty Arts and the City Attorney's office on the necessary contracts for the transfer of ownership and rights for the work from the artist to Liberty arts and from Liberty Arts to the City. Final acceptance of the work will require City Council approval. He is hopeful that the matter can be presented to the City Council in September

Coyle also reported that the Civil Rights Mural is taking longer than anticipated for reasons beyond the artist's control. He will be working with her to extend the contract completion date, with the aim of completing the project in August. In order to allow for possible weather delays, the contract will be extended through October.

Sherry DeVries Reported that the Finance Committee met June 24. A number of ideas for projects were discussed. This included youth projects for children with autism and disabilities. The Triangle regional Foundation might be interested in cooperating on a capacity building program for non-profit cultural organizations. The idea of sponsoring scholarships for organizations to attend existing workshops and training programs rather than the Board creating new programs is being considered. The committee will meet again in July to continue its work.

Leverly suggested that the information that Chris Ogden is collecting as a member of the Duke/Durham committee organized by the university might provide useful information for the Finance Committee. Frank Konhaus noted that Ogden has interviewed over thirty representatives of arts organizations about what they see as needs.

DeVries reported that she is looking into a Seattle-based company that offers a web based day-of-show ticket discount structure now being used in a number of cities. It is a low costs system and might help the Board achieve one of its project goals, to facilitate such a service in Durham. It was suggested that they be invited for a presentation in Durham.

DeVries reported that she met with representatives of Caktus, the business that has been in the news for paining over the Emily Weinstein mural on its building. The company offered to participate in a public discussion. It might be appropriate for the Public Art Committee and the Durham Arts Council to co-host such a discussion.

Mebane-Watts reported that Lou Rollins has found a new Duke student intern to work with the Festival Committee.

Leverly thanked Sherry DeVries and Ashley Mattheis for their important service on the Cultural Advisory Board. They are rotating off the Board and this was their last meeting. She noted that Mark Hough and Pam Green also will be rotating off of the Board but were not present at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.